

End-point assessment plan for Orthodontic therapist apprenticeship standard

Apprenticeship standard number	Level of this end-point assessment (EPA)	Integrated
ST1434	4	Statutory integrated

Contents

Introduction and overview	2
EPA summary table	3
Gateway	4
EPA	5
Grading.....	6
Roles and responsibilities	6
Internal Quality Assurance (IQA).....	8
Reasonable adjustments	8
Re-sits and re-takes.....	8
Professional body recognition	8

Introduction and overview

Orthodontic therapists are subject to statutory regulation by the General Dental Council (GDC). The GDC sets the standards of proficiency required for entry to the professional register and these are the occupational standards for registered Orthodontic therapists. The GDC also has the statutory duty to set requirements of programmes necessary to support the achievement of the knowledge, skills and behaviours (KSBs) set out in the standards of proficiency and the KSBs in the occupational standard. The apprenticeship standard and the delivery of the apprentices training must be aligned to all relevant GDC standards to ensure that apprentices are eligible for entry to the GDC register on completion. It is against the law for anyone to work as an Orthodontic therapist without being registered with the GDC. The end-point assessment (EPA) assesses whether apprentices have also passed the apprenticeship, and is based on the same professional knowledge, skills and behaviours as the occupational standard.

This document sets out the requirements for the end-point assessment (EPA) for the Orthodontic therapist statutory integrated apprenticeship standard. It is for end-point assessment organisations (EPAOs), that must be a GDC approved qualification awarding organisation, who need to know how an EPA for this apprenticeship must operate. It will also be of interest to apprentices, their employers and the GDC approved training providers.

Apprentices will typically spend 13 months on-programme working towards the occupational standard.

The EPA period should only start, and the EPA be arranged, once the employer and GDC approved training provider is satisfied that the apprentice is consistently working at or above the level set out in the occupational standard and all the pre-requisite gateway requirements for EPA have been met. It is expected that the gateway will be reached on completion of a qualification approved by the GDC to enable professional registration with the GDC as an Orthodontic Therapist.

The apprentice must have achieved English and mathematics qualifications in line with the apprenticeship funding rules.

The EPA period is expected to last a maximum of 1 month beginning when the apprentice has passed the EPA gateway.

The EPA will determine the overall apprenticeship standard and grades of:

- fail
- pass

This apprenticeship has a statutory integrated EPA. The EPA will use the assessment arrangements in use for other entry routes into this occupation and will be completed simultaneously, as outlined in this EPA plan. Alignment of the integrated EPA is permitted because the following criteria are met:

1. the occupation (profession) must be regulated by a statutory regulator that carries out a range of functions in relation to the occupations they regulate, including making sure individuals have the necessary qualifications and/or experience to practice the occupation and taking any necessary enforcement action
2. the occupational standard and statutory integrated EPA meet the apprenticeship requirements

EPA summary table

On-programme (typically 13 months)	<p>Training to develop the Orthodontic therapist occupation standards knowledge, skills and behaviours (aligned to GDC 'The Safe Practitioner: A framework of behaviours and outcomes for dental professional education - Orthodontic Therapist' November 2023)</p>
End-point assessment gateway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apprentice has met the knowledge, skills and behaviours • Employer and the training provider are satisfied the apprentice has consistently demonstrated they meet the KSBs of the occupational standard • Achieved all required units of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A qualification approved by the GDC that enables professional registration with GDC as an Orthodontic therapist • Achieved English and maths qualifications in line with the apprenticeship funding rules • Achieved all required modules, taking into account any recognition of prior learning (RPL), of an Orthodontic therapist qualification approved by the GDC that enables professional registration with GDC as an Orthodontic therapist
End-point assessment (which would typically take place within 1 month)	<p>The EPA starts with the examination board (HEI) or Awarding Organisation / training provider external quality assurance scrutiny of claimed qualification or programme and finishes when the recognised course provider sends the certified list of apprentices to the GDC. The apprentice is not required to carry out any additional assessments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Validation by the examination board (HEI) or external quality assurer scrutiny of claimed certificates from the Awarding Organisation / training provider • List of certified apprentices sent to the GDC by the recognised awarding organisation or accredited programme provider
Professional recognition	<p>Registration with: General Dental Council</p>

Gateway

The EPA period should only start once the employer and the GDC approved training provider are satisfied that the apprentice is consistently working at or above the level set out in the occupational standard.

The EPA starts with the examination board (HEI) or Awarding Organisation / training provider external quality assurance scrutiny of claimed certificates and finishes when GDC recognised provider:

- makes a decision on pass/fail.
- the Approved Education Provider emails a secure pass list to GDC which includes required personal details of apprentices who have received a pass

The apprentice must have completed and achieved the following gateway requirements prior to beginning EPA:

- Achieved English and mathematics qualifications in line with the apprenticeship funding rules.
- Achieved all required units, taking into account any recognition of prior learning (RPL) of the following approved qualification:
 - a qualification approved by the GDC that enables professional registration with GDC as an Orthodontic therapist

The apprentice separately applies for registration once they have achieved a pass.

The GDC use the pass list to verify successful completion of the apprenticeship programme.

EPA

The EPA is:

The statutory process aligned with the regulator's requirements and must have an external examiner present when considering achievement of the GDC recognised Orthodontic therapist qualification or programme or confirmation of achievement through external quality assurance undertaken by an Awarding Organisation in line with a GDC recognised qualification or programme

The EPA starts with the examination board (HEI) and finishes when the recognised course provider sends the certified list of apprentices to the GDC. The apprentice is not required to carry out any additional assessments

or

The EPA starts with the Awarding Organisation / training provider external quality assurance scrutiny of claimed qualification or programme and finishes when the recognised course provider sends the certified list of apprentices to the GDC. The apprentice is not required to carry out any additional assessments

Independence of the EPA will be assured through:

- the examination board, which will include an external and appropriately qualified person or organisation, that is not an employee of the course provider and has no involvement with the pre-registration apprentice orthodontic therapist in their day-to-day work being responsible for the final decision on the GDC approved Orthodontic therapist qualification or programme and confirms the apprentice has met the education outcomes required for registration with the GDC or the end-point assessment organisation which will conduct the EPA in line with quality assurance processes associated with a recognised qualification accepted for registration with the GDC;
- or**
- confirmation of achievement through external quality assurer scrutiny of claimed certificates from the Awarding Organisation in line with a GDC recognised qualification or programme

Grading

Name of grade	Grade descriptor
Pass	Has met the standards for Orthodontic therapists set out in GDC 'The Safe Practitioner: A framework of behaviours and outcomes for dental professional education' - Orthodontic Therapist' November 2023)
Fail	Does not meet the standards for Orthodontic therapists set out in GDC 'The Safe Practitioner: A framework of behaviours and outcomes for dental professional education' - Orthodontic Therapist' November 2023)

Roles and responsibilities

Role	Responsibility
Apprentice	As a minimum, the apprentice should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> complete the constituent parts of the programme successfully meet all apprenticeship gateway requirements understand the structure and requirements of the apprenticeship
Employer	As a minimum, the employer should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> support the apprentice to achieve the KSBs outlined in the occupational standard determine when the apprentice is working at or above the level of occupational competence outlined in the occupational standard and has met all apprenticeship gateway requirements, taking account of the advice of the GDC approved training provider
Training provider (GDC approved)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> advises the employer when the apprentice has achieved the on-programme requirements and is ready to undertake the EPA conform to the requirements of the apprenticeship provider and assessment register is recognised by the GDC to deliver a Orthodontic therapist qualification recognised by the GDC
The EPAO (GDC approved programme or qualification)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> conform to the requirements of the apprenticeship provider and assessment register be approved by the General Dental Council to deliver the qualification

awarding organisation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • confirm to the employer that gateway requirements have been met • use appropriate recording documentation to ensure a clear and auditable mechanism for recording the decisions • maintain robust internal quality assurance (IQA) procedures and processes, and conduct these on a regular basis • conform to the requirements of the nominated external quality assurance body • conduct standardisation events and activities in accordance external quality assurance (EQA) provider’s requirements • have, and operate, an appeals process • arrange for apprenticeship certification
External examiner / Independent Assessor (HEI)	<p>There will be one individual with the following responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External Examiner in line with QAA Guidance on External Examiners/ Expertise for HE programmes • Independent Assessor who as a minimum should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ understand the occupational standard and end-point assessment plan ○ be an Orthodontic specialist ○ comply to the requirements of the EPAO (GDC Approved Education Institution) ○ be independent of the apprentice, and the employing organisation who are involved in delivering the apprenticeship ○ not have been involved in the teaching or on-programme assessment of the apprentice other than in their role under point 1 above • 3. External Examiner for the end-point assessment who will carry out required activities on behalf of the EQA provider
External quality assurer (awarding organisation / training provider)	<p>As a minimum an external quality assurer (awarding organisation / training provider) should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • understand the occupational standard and end-point assessment plan • be an Orthodontic specialist • comply to the requirements of the EPAO (GDC recognised Education Provider delivering a GDC accredited programme or recognised qualification awarding organisation) • be independent of the apprentice, and the employing organisation who are involved in delivering the apprenticeship • not have been involved in the teaching or on-programme assessment

Internal Quality Assurance (IQA)

Internal quality assurance refers to the requirements that EPAOs must have in place to ensure consistent (reliable) and accurate (valid) assessment decisions. EPAOs for this EPA must:

- appoint external examiners or a person responsible for external quality assurance who:
 - are Orthodontic specialists
 - meet the EQA provider's recommendations for external examiners or external quality assurance
 - meet the EPAOs requirements as set out in their 'Assessment, Progression and Awarding' or similar guidance

Reasonable adjustments

The EPAO must have in place clear and fair arrangements for making reasonable adjustments for this apprenticeship standard. This should include how an apprentice qualifies for reasonable adjustments and what reasonable adjustments will be made. The adjustments must maintain the validity, reliability and integrity of the assessment decisions outlined in this EPA plan.

Re-sits and re-takes

In line with the EPAO's (GDC Approved Education Provider) procedures.

Professional body recognition

This apprenticeship is aligned to the General Dental Council 'The Safe Practitioner: A framework of behaviours and outcomes for dental professional education - Orthodontic Therapist' November 2023. This means that those who successfully complete the apprenticeship will be eligible to apply for registration with the GDC.